

From: schneidj@bellsouth.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/19/02 7:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

Att: John Ashcroft

John I. Schneider
14100 Hickory Hills Trail
Jeffersontown, KY 40299

January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinion that the recent antitrust settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft has been a long time coming. I think it is ridiculous that litigation has dragged on for over three years now and think that our public's best interests will be served when government stops interfering with successful innovative companies that have made huge contributions to our society.

The terms of the settlement not only reflect the intense lobbying of competitors to Microsoft, but also politicians and lawmakers lack of concern for consumer rights. Ironically, all the terms of the settlement seem to just focus on helping competitors get an edge they could not gain on their own through hard work. For instance, Microsoft will be granting broad new rights to computer makers to configure Windows to actively promote non-Microsoft products. Microsoft has also agreed not to retaliate against computer makers and software developers who promote non-Microsoft products.

Although unjustified, the settlement is in the best interest of American public because it is better than the alternative of further litigation. Our nation cannot afford any more lawsuits against the cornerstone of the tech sector. I hope your office takes my opinion seriously and that you make the right decision at the end of the public comment period.

Sincerely,

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John Schneider

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